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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0533

HENRY A. WAXMAN
33RD DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

September 16, 2013

The Honorable Eric K. Shinseki
Secretary of Veterans Affairs
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20420-0002

Dear Secretary Shinseki:

I am writing to thank you again for meeting with Senator Feinstein, Los Angeles County Supervisor Yaroslavsky, and me in Washington on July 30, 2013. We were very encouraged by your pledges to do more for homeless veterans at the West Los Angeles Medical Center (West LA VA). I remain committed to doing all I can to help the Department of Veterans Affairs obtain adequate resources to fund the programs necessary to end homelessness.

I am also writing about U.S. District Judge S. James Otero's order in *Valentini vs. Shinseki*, which voided nine Enhanced Sharing Agreements (ESA) at the West LA VA. Most of these sharing agreements were entered into before your appointment as Secretary and they have been a strong point of contention with veterans for years.

Judge Otero's decision was a stern rebuke of the VA's interpretation of the "clear and unambiguous" language of the law. I believe the most constructive path the VA could take now would be to decline to spend resources on an appeal of the decision. I urge the VA instead to accept the decision as an opportunity to work to strengthen the programs that directly serve the needs of veterans on the West LA VA campus.

Again, thank you for contacting me and I hope you will continue to keep in touch on issues of concern.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,



HENRY A. WAXMAN
Member of Congress

HAW:pd